

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 10 2 July 2008, 1600 Hours

*New Information in Bold Italic Type*

### SUMMARY

*The South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake is the only large active wildfire in Virginia at this time and is 90% contained; Stone Coal Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County and the Hot Fire, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Warren and Shenandoah Counties are both 100% contained and out. VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service have suspended aerial detection flights. Flights would be reinstated if another round of significant lightning.*

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation.

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Wednesday, 2 July:** *Sunny during the day and mostly clear during the night; daytime high temperatures low to upper 80's with relative humidity 29 to 37%; overnight low temperatures low 50's to low 60's with relative humidity 67 to 87%; west winds 5-10 MPH.*

**Thursday, 3 July:** *Mostly sunny during the day and partly cloudy during the night; daytime high temperatures mid 80's to mid 90's with relative humidity 32 to 43%; overnight low temperatures low to upper 60's with relative humidity 73 to 90%; west-southwest winds 5-15 MPH.*

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 2 – Communications:** VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management for deployment of Sprint ERT and IP Trailer for communications, cellular telephone and data support. ***Operation of the Sprint ERT and IP Trailer transitioned from VDEM to Department of Interior at 1800 hrs, 1 July.***

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned **4,307** acres and is 90% contained. Due to increased fire activity, containment of the fire is unknown. A 10 acre spot fire outside the north flank containment lines discovered on 27 June has grown in size to over **200 plus acres due to extremely high temperatures, winds, and thunderstorms. Drought conditions and drying of fuels in the swamp are making firefighting extremely difficult.** Incident Management transitioned from a Type 3 Team to a Type 2 Team. ***Staffing was increased from 180 to 197 personnel.*** Resources on scene include **3 hand crews**, 11 engines, **5 bulldozers**, 1 water tender, 2 helicopters **and 7 other specialized fire apparatus. Fire activity was light throughout the night with continued smoldering and limited surface fire. Weather conditions are predicated to be drier, which could lead to increasing fire activity. Westerly winds will again threaten the eastern fire line where firefighters will concentrate their efforts. Crews will work to flood the ditch with water from Lake Drummond and to install a new sprinkler system from the lake 4,000 feet southward. This system will increase the water delivery and cool the hot fire edge. Crews along the northern flank are continuing efforts to flood the ditch and clear brush along the sides. Engine crews will continue to patrol and mop up the fire**

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***edge along the less active south and west flanks.*** Smoke is visible throughout the area and smoke and haze may impact residents and travelers for several weeks. One firefighter sustained non-life threatening injuries on 28 June when he was struck by a falling tree. A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 4,000 feet above the fire. Agencies providing personnel and resources are: VA Department of Forestry, VA Department of Emergency Management, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department, City of Suffolk Fire Department and Civil Air Patrol.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is estimated to have burned **300 acres and is out.** Lightning is probable cause of the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Stone Coal Fire, Caldwell Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County was probably caused by lightning. Estimated size burned **is 914 acres and is out.**

***VA Department of Forestry (VDOT) report 4 small wildfires burned 19 acres on 1 July. They report running 3-7 new fires daily which is a little above average for this time of year but not unexpected based on the generally dry conditions. VDOT has 15 persons deployed to the Evans Road Fire in North Carolina, 2 persons deployed to assist with Texas wildfires and 1 person deployed to assist with California wildfires. VDOT reported the National Interagency Fire Center, Boise Idaho, set the National Preparedness Level to 5, its highest level. This allows them to begin using military resources to assist nationally. There are currently significant wildfire incidents in the East, South and West significantly impacting resources across the county.***

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** VDEM created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness, monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

### **PLANNING SECTION**

**Situation/Documentation Unit: *Monitoring situation and will be issuing a weekly situation report on Wednesday's. SPOT Reports will cease unless there is a significant increase in wildfire activity. Next Situation Report will be issued Wednesday, 9 July 2008.***

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